



Aruba cleans up with the AHATA

Astrid Muller, President of the Environmental Committee of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) declared that the Sixth Annual Coastal Zone Clean-up, which took place on Saturday morning, October 20, was, without a doubt, their most successful effort yet.

Over 1000 volunteers from various schools and organizations took to the beaches from the Westpunt to Seroe Colorado and dozens of points in between on both the north and south coasts to collect litter. Various companies, such as the Divi/Tamarijn sent teams that were deployed around the area of Arashi and the California Lighthouse, and donated their trucks to help collect the refuse and bring it to centralized locations for pick-up by various companies. De Palm, Kinikini, and Fantasy tours plus Arubus, and Banana Bus provided transportation of the various groups from the AHATA office in Oranjestad to their assigned locations and back.

THE NEWS caught the groups from primary schools Ora Ubao and Santa Filomena under the direction of Menno v/d Straten hard at work around the lighthouse area, ably assisted by Miss Aruba 2007-2008, Tracy Nicolas. Astrid Muller reports that record amounts of refuse were collected from north coast areas that unfortunately have become dumping grounds for all the garbage thrown from passing ships, as the currents bring it to the shore. Additionally, the scouting groups assigned to Manglo Halto came not only to collect litter, but brought gardening tools and groomed the lovely south shore beach.

Astrid expressed heartfelt gratitude to Serlimar, the Royal Dutch Marines, Valero volunteers, and container companies Racso, Mourik, Star Cleaning, and Ecotech. Special thanks goes to all the AGA restaurants and resorts that donated food for the hungry volunteers, and Victoria & Tropical Bottling companies for refreshments, along with Andina Ice. Additional thanks to Boogaard Insurance, Visser Trading, Fantastic Gardens, Total Services, and SETAR, N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company. Also vital in making the day a success, was the Emergency Response Team of La Cabana Resort along with the hardworking members of the AHATA Environmental Committee and those that volunteered to be area supervisors.